



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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CONTENTS

14 July 1995

CENTRAL AFRICA

Rwanda

RPA Opens Fire on Panzi Refugee Camp in Zaire [AFP]	1
One Refugee, Three Zairean Soldiers Killed [Paris International]	1
UN Secretary General Arrives for First Visit [Kigali Radio]	1
Arms Embargo Issue To Be Discussed [Paris International]	1
Gasana Meets With Tanzanian Defense Minister [Dar es Salaam Radio]	1

Zaire

Wa Dondo Comments on Current Political Crisis [Paris International]	2
---	---

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

Government Rewards Man Who Aided 'Terrorists' Capture [Addis Ababa Radio]	3
---	---

Uganda

UN Secretary General in Talks With Museveni [Kampala Radio]	3
Former Minister Owiny Returns From Exile [Kampala Radio]	3

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

'Breakthrough' Reported in Labor Bill Talks [SAPA]	4
Foreign Observers To Monitor Task Unit Inquiry [SAPA]	4
Commentary Predicts Economic 'Crisis' [DIE AFRIKANER 12-18 May]	4
Black Management Forum To Study Affirmative Action [BEELD 12 May]	5
Arson Suspected in Finance Building Fire [Johannesburg Radio]	6
South African Press Review for 13 Jul [THE STAR 13 Jul, etc.]	6
South African Press Review for 14 Jul [THE STAR 14 Jul, etc.]	6

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

FAA Official Says Situation in Cabinda 'Calm' [Luanda Radio]	8
UNITA, Cabinda Faction Officials Meet in Sanga [Jamba Voz da Resistencia]	8
Joint Commission Team Delivers Dos Santos Message [Luanda Radio]	8
Millions Lost Due to Illegal Diamond Trade [Luanda Radio]	8

Lesotho

Joint S. African Committee To Discuss Border Dispute [Johannesburg TV]	9
--	---

Mozambique

U.S. Envoy 'Interference' in Peace Process Noted [MEDIAX 10 Jul]	9
Police Seize 7,000 Arms, Ammunition [Maputo Radio]	10
Official Confirms Privatization of Commercial Bank [Maputo Radio]	10

Swaziland

Mbilini: Government Not To Tolerate Mass Strike [THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND 12 Jul]	10
---	----

Zambia

Over 80 MMD Members Resign, Join New Party [Lusaka Radio]	11
---	----

WEST AFRICA

Cote d'Ivoire

Chinese Military Delegation Arrives in Abidjan [Abidjan Radio]	12
--	----

Ghana

Paper Reports Finance Minister Resigns [London International]	12
---	----

Niger

Rights Organization Denounces Media Censorship [Niamey Radio]	12
---	----

Nigeria

Abacha Lifts Ban on GUARDIAN Newspaper Group [Lagos TV]	13
NEW NIGERIAN Office Directed To Resume Production [Lagos TV]	13
Human Rights Group Begins Anti-Execution Campaign [AFP]	13
NCP Members Demonstrate for Fawehimi Release [AFP]	14

Sierra Leone

NCCP Chairman Arrested; More 'Successes' Claimed [London International]	14
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Rwanda

RPA Opens Fire on Panzi Refugee Camp in Zaire

AB1307215395 Paris AFP in English
2046 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kigali, 13 Jul (AFP) — The Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) has opened fire on soldiers of the former Rwandan Armed Forces (RAF) in a refugee camp in Zaire, killing at least one, a Rwandan military source said Thursday [13 July]. A diplomatic source in Kigali said at least one person was killed in the incident Wednesday and four injured in the Panzi camp, in the region of Bukavu, near the border between Zaire and Rwanda.

Soldiers of the RPA, the army of the former Tutsi rebellion now in power, fired from one of their border camps, Rwanda's Information Minister Jean-Baptiste Nkuliyingoma said. The Rwandan military source said one RPA soldier was killed, adding that the first shots came from the Panzi camp, which houses former RAF soldiers, many of them injured during last year's civil war. [passage omitted]

The same military source said the RPA fired with automatic weapons and anti-aircraft cannons from a hill overlooking the River Rusizi. Sporadic gunfire lasted for nearly an hour on Wednesday.

One Refugee, Three Zairean Soldiers Killed

LD1307203795 Paris Radio France International
in French 1830 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Zairean soldiers and one refugee were killed today in an attack launched from Rwanda against the camp at Panzi, about 30 kilometers south of Bukavu, in eastern Zaire.

This has just been announced by the spokesman of the Zairean prime minister.

UN Secretary General Arrives for First Visit

EA1307223195 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French
1800 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived this evening at Kanombe International Airport, where he was welcomed by Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, ministers, MP's, and representatives of countries and international organizations. After inspecting a guard of honor comprising national forces and the UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda], the UN secretary general announced, without being interviewed by the media, that he is happy to be in Rwanda, and that he is the first UN secretary general to visit the country. Here he is:

[Begin Butrus-Ghali recording] I thank the Kigali government for its welcome to my delegation and I. I am happy to be in the capital again, in a new position this time, that of UN secretary general. It is the first time that a UN secretary general has come to visit your beautiful country, and I am proud that it is an African who is the first UN secretary general to visit your country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Arms Embargo Issue To Be Discussed

LD1307142195 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Butrus-Ghali's visit to Rwanda will have a heavy schedule. Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu confirmed earlier today that the issue of the arms embargo will be discussed. Faustin Twagiramungu:

[Begin recording] [Twagiramungu] We cannot bear the situation which prevailed under the government which preceded us, which plunged this country into a disastrous situation and, given the recurrent infiltrations and incursions from borders with neighboring countries, it is obvious that the embargo should absolutely be lifted.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you going to press for the early departure of UN troops in Rwanda?

[Twagiramungu] Well, the UN resolution is quite clear: in three months time, there must be only 1,800 troops of the UN mission left in Rwanda, and these troops must have left the country by the end of the three following months. That was the resolution. We are not against it.

[Correspondent] You want these deadlines to be met?

[Twagiramungu] Yes, these deadlines should be met since the UN itself agrees to meet them.

[Correspondent] Despite the increasingly pressing request from a few RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] leaders?

[Twagiramungu] I have not heard anything about this request so far because the RPF is represented in the government we call a National Union Government, and this decision remains that of the government, not of the RPF. [end recording]

Gasana Meets With Tanzanian Defense Minister

EA1307213395 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania
Network in Swahili 1300 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Since taking over last year, the Rwandan Government has provided 560,000 people with new jobs. Mr. Anastase Gasana, the Rwandan

minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, said the aim of providing the people with jobs is to restore unity among the citizens of Rwanda after last year's brutal killings in which more than 1 million people lost their lives.

Speaking during a meeting with Honorable Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahman Kinana, minister of state for defense in the office of the president, Mr. Anastase Gasana said every village is composed of between 60 and 70 families irrespective of their tribal differences. Mr. Anastase Gasana told Hon. Col. Kinana that his government plans to rehabilitate 35 important areas, including that of education, in the operation to restore national unity. The foreign minister said the greatest problems currently facing the government are the elimination of tribalism among the country's citizens following last year's killings, and the reluctance of Rwandan refugees to go home.

For his part, Col. Kinana said during his two-day visit to Rwanda that Tanzanians are fed up with the influx of refugees from neighboring countries, and wants them to go home. Hon. Col. Kinana said the activities of the refugees in the camps poses a threat to the lives of local residents.

Zaire

Wa Dondo Comments on Current Political Crisis

LD1307173995 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Back to Zaire with our guest, Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo. The radical opposition and some of the parties close to the presidency said on 11 July that the government had resigned, but the prime minister is fighting back. He seems to have received the support of President Mobutu during a recent meeting, and he has also announced that he intends to open up his government to new political movements. Alain Tchoungou asked him what his objective was:

[Begin recording] [Wa Dondo] It must said that, in accordance with the Constitution, the prime minister must keep the president of the republic well informed about the affairs of the state. This meeting with the president of the republic is not the first, we meet regularly, at least once a week, and, given the fact that some movements are not represented in the government, I have decided to open up the government to these movements so that we can prepare together the various stages that will lead us to the referendum, presidential,

general, senate, regional, municipal, and local elections. Thus, Everyone will be involved, and we will be able to establish the institutions of the Third Republic.

[Tchoungou] Do you think that your call will be heard this time round, including by Mr. Etienne Tshisekedi's radical opposition?

[Wa Dondo] I hope so. We must surpass ourselves, in the interest of the country, and all be in a spirit of national concord in the nation's higher interest to prepare the elections in order to establish the institutions of the republic without any further disputes.

[Tchoungou] In your opinion, when, Prime Minister? You are in the government.

[Wa Dondo] As soon as the consultations are over. This is a mere reshuffle. I have already reshuffled this government by including the UDPS [Union for Democracy and Social Progress], a reforming movement, and today, after the consultations, I will be able to reshuffle the government and thus enable this government to continue with the task it has already initiated.

[Tchoungou] Some say that the wa Dondo government is a government that has resigned and that only deals with everyday matters. Can you confirm this, prime minister?

[Wa Dondo] The government has not resigned, since I am the one who took the initiative to reshuffle the government to include those who did not previously belong to it or review the positions of those already in the government, in order to make a possible technical readjustment. So the government is not dealing with everyday matters. It is continuing its mission, and the prime minister has deemed that the time has come for him to open up his government to other movements.

[Tchoungou] Do you not fear, following the initiatives taken by some members close to the president of the republic and to the Radical Opposition, that the wa Dondo government might suffer what Monsignor Monsengwo suffered as head of the Higher Council of the Republic?

[Wa Dondo] The government's sole objective is to carry on with the implementation of the program on the basis of which it was appointed by the Higher Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament. That is why I do not see anything that can be compared to the situation you are talking about. [end recording]

Ethiopia

Government Rewards Man Who Aided 'Terrorists' Capture

EA1307211795 Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia Network in English 1030 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ethiopian Government has awarded 63,000 birr to an Ethiopian national who tipped off the security forces about the whereabouts of the hiding terrorists who carried out the 26 June assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak of Egypt. The minister of internal affairs, Mr. Kuma Demeksa, handed over the award to the individual, thereby fulfilling the promise earlier made by the Ethiopian Government to give substantial money award to anyone who would provide security forces with information leading to the place of hiding of the terrorists who were on run at that time.

The award, which is the equivalent of \$10,000 in foreign currency, was given to the individual, who requested the money here to be sent to his son who is studying abroad. The minister extended his heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the operation.

Uganda

UN Secretary General in Talks With Museveni

EA1307222695 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1700 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, today paid a day's visit to Uganda, during which he held talks with President Yoweri Museveni. The meeting took place this afternoon at Lake Victoria Hotel in Entebbe. At the conclusion of their talks, President Museveni and Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali drove to Entebbe International Airport, where the secretary general addressed a press conference before leaving for Kigali, Rwanda.

The secretary general said that the United Nations will continue its efforts to help Africa find the best solutions to their problems faced in the region. He assured that

his organization will strive to ensure that Africa is not marginalized.

Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali also told the press conference that the United Nations will continue providing all-round assistance to Somalia, but stressed that agreement of all parties involved is crucial. He said that the United Nations cannot impose solutions. He said that the United Nations has been successful in Angola, Cambodia, [and] El Salvador because of the political will on the ground in those countries.

Dr. Ghali expressed his gratitude to President Yoweri Museveni for availing time to hold discussions with him. The UN secretary general was later seen off by President Museveni. [passage omitted]

Former Minister Owiny Returns From Exile

EA1307215895 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A former minister in [the] Obote-two government, Dr. Albert Picho Owiny, who has been in exile for the last 10 years, has returned home. Dr. Picho Owiny, who came aboard a British Airways [flight], was received on arrival at Entebbe Airport by the minister of state for tourism, wildlife, and antiquities, Dr. Salim Bachu, and the director of public relations and legal affairs in the office of the president, Mr. Bernard Kазoorо.

Welcoming him at Entebbe Airport, the minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Rugunda, said the government is happy to receive the former minister, saying Uganda is for all Ugandans irrespective of different political views. Dr. Rugunda said that the return of the former minister is a score for the unity of the country.

On behalf of the people of Nebbi District, where Dr. Picho Owiny comes from, Dr. Salim Bachu thanked the government for making it possible for their son to return home. Dr. Picho Owiny expressed his appreciation to President Yoweri Museveni for the important role he has played in confidence-building, which has made his return possible.

'Breakthrough' Reported in Labor Bill Talks*MB1307141895 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1413 GMT 13 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg July 13 SAPA — Organised business and labour on Thursday [13 July] reached agreement on most of the outstanding issues concerning the draft labour relations bill, Labour Minister Tito Mboweni said in Johannesburg.

Following 30 hours of talks within the National Economic Development and Labour Council he described the agreement as a "breakthrough" for post-apartheid labour relations.

The parties agreed on the issues of centralised bargaining, strike ballots, the disclosure of information, closed shops and the setting up of bargaining councils.

Mboweni said the remaining issues of picketing, "scab" labour and lock-outs had been referred to a technical committee which had to reach an agreement by Monday.

Foreign Observers To Monitor Task Unit Inquiry*MB1307180895 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1745 GMT 13 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban July 13 SAPA — Two international observers have been seconded to monitor the Investigation Task Unit's [ITU] inquiries into hit squad activities in KwaZulu/Natal, the ITU said in a statement on Thursday [13 July].

Howard Varney, chairman of the Investigation Task Board [ITB] which is overseeing the ITU's work, said the Danish and Dutch Governments had each seconded a senior police officer to monitor the unit's investigations.

Detective Chief Inspector Neils Broderon of the Danish police force joined the ITU in April. Chief Commissioner Simon Molenaar of a regional police force in the Netherlands took up his posting in July.

"Their primary tasks will be to ensure that the investigations of the ITU are conducted objectively, ethically, fairly and according to international police standards."

Varney said if the observers were dissatisfied with any aspect of the inquiry, they were entitled to raise their concerns with the ITB, the KwaZulu/Natal deputy commissioner's office, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi or with their respective embassies.

The men, on secondment for six months, have unlimited access to all aspects of the ITU's investigations. They can also issue reports to their own governments, which can then make representation to the South African Government.

"Both officers are experienced investigators in their own countries and will provide expert guidance to the members of the ITU," Varney said.

Commentary Predicts Economic 'Crisis'*95AF0118A Pretoria DIE AFRIKANER in Afrikaans
12-18 May 95 p 3*

[Commentary by "HF": "Bankruptcy Is Around the Corner; South Africa Is Rapidly Slipping Into Its Greatest Economic Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The economic crisis facing the country is much worse than what the South Africa Chamber of Commerce (Sabek) and the newspapers let on. It is "the mother of all monetary crises."** Industry is falling farther and farther behind, drought-plagued agriculture is creating a serious import burden, and the gold mines are unable to hold their own as well. Imports have meanwhile already risen to such an extent that the Reserve Bank cannot keep up its pace of borrowing money from abroad. Something will have to give way somewhere. Prospects are that a whole lot of things are going to collapse simultaneously, and a number of different crises will arise that will plunge the country into its greatest monetary crisis ever.

Despite the rising prices for raw materials and despite the falling value of the rand abroad, industry is not able to improve its performance in the area of exports. Weak management, low worker productivity, black strikes, and antiquated machinery as a result of years of capital flight are making industry uncompetitive on overseas markets. The basic cause is the government's decades-long political and administrative incompetency, which is now taking its toll.

Despite the rise in coal prices, mining cannot pull its share of the load either. Inadequate terminal facilities, limited expansion and development work, and poorly coordinated marketing efforts abroad are preventing the huge increase in coal exports that otherwise would have been possible. Poor planning, weak administration, and bad labor policy on the part of the government have shackled the industry. In the declining gold mining sector as well, poor treatment by the state, weak and short-sighted management, the lack of government production incentives that would have helped, and further black strikes have put the country's earnings from gold on a downward path. In agriculture, the failure of the government to continue its policy of storing white corn, its continuous floundering in the area of marketing and prices, and the drought that has exacerbated Kraai Van Niekerk's mistakes have now created the necessity of importing about 3 billion South African rands [R] worth of corn and other crops. This

will not only make the crisis in the area of imports unmanageable, but it will also cause a strong inflationary rise in the price of foodstuffs.

Imports, on the other hand, have shot up. Imports of machinery for industry and investments in consumer goods by the blacks have gotten out of control. Without including food imports in the coming months until next winter, the deficit in the balance of trade has already skyrocketed. From a positive trade balance of R4.4 [rands] billion in the first quarter of last year, the surplus has declined to R788 million in the first quarter of this year with prospects of a deficit of R3 billion in the second quarter and a total trade deficit of R10 billion for the entire fiscal year **provided** that foreign investors do not withdraw their short-term capital and without figuring in the R3 billion for imports of foodstuffs.

Stock market sources report that the flight of foreign capital has, however, already begun in earnest—in the first quarter of this year in the amount of R2 billion, and this will likely continue at a rapidly increasing rate as the year progresses. The Reserve Bank still has reserves of approximately R10 billion in gold and foreign currency. The government can draw a total of R21 billion from the International Monetary Fund. If it does so to any significant extent, however, the foreign short-term capital that is still in the country will leave in a flood.

In theory, the government can do two things. It can allow the rand to decline in value so that industry can better compete abroad. In view of the fact that the government and the Reserve Bank do not want to impose any kind of import controls, this will result in imports claiming more of the available money supply than before and stimulating inflation—even if they decline in volume. The rand's value has already declined by 12 percent against the German mark and by 18 percent against the yen during the first quarter of this year, however. If it declines even further, investors' confidence will disappear altogether, and Mandela and Chris Liebenberg will really be in difficulty. If the administration does not depress the value of the rand and chooses to draw on its IMF credit, it will have to increase the interest rate by 4 or 6 percent under circumstances in which those interest rate increases will have virtually no effect any longer. Investment by blacks will not be affected, and whites cannot reduce their investments much more without causing large-scale misery and bankruptcies. Dr. Stals has indeed "interest-rated" us to death.

Mandela's New South Africa is between the devil and the deep blue sea as a result of his own and the previous de Klerk administration's blatant incompetency. No

matter in which direction it goes, it will come to ruin. The question, however, is does the country, do we ourselves have to come to grief as well? Or is it preferable to get rid of this administration in time?

Photo Captions

1. p. 3 (center left): Chris Liebenberg, the minister of finance—Even with a "competent" man in that post, foreign investors are still not very interested in South African investments...

2. p. 3 (upper right): Mandela and his clerk [play on the name de Klerk]—Their "new" South Africa is now rapidly losing its luster and is between the devil and the deep blue sea...

Black Management Forum To Study Affirmative Action

OPAF0122A95 Johannesburg *BEELD in Afrikaans*
12 May 95 p S5

[Unattributed article: "Forum Examines Affirmative Action: More Information Is Available on Practices Applied at South African Firms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Black Management Forum (BMF) is about to begin a major new study on affirmative action in South Africa, Mr. Bheki Sibiyi, the executive director of the organization, announced yesterday.

The organization, which represents black managers in South Africa, has been involved in developing a blueprint for the successful application of affirmative action for some time now.

"It started to become clear to us that there has indeed been extensive academic research on the subject, but that there is little information available on the practices that are applied at South African companies with regard to affirmative action.

"On the one hand, policymakers had little factual information at their disposal that they could use, while companies, on the other hand, did not have enough guidelines to help them with their attempts," Mr. Sibiyi says.

"For those reasons, the BMF decided that it is necessary to launch a project that can provide the needed information."

The project focuses on medium to large employers in South Africa and covers some 2,000 companies from all sectors of the economy. The aim is to gain information on how affirmative action is approached at these organizations, with the specific goal of determining what

practices have been successful thus far and what problems have been experienced.

The project will be managed by a steering committee consisting of representatives from the BMF, Ernst & Young, Gencor, and SA Druggists. The committee members include Mr. Moss Ngoasberg (Gencor) and Mr. Mpho Makwana (GMF), who are currently advising the government on affirmative action.

There are plans to gather and analyze the data over the course of the year so that the first results can be reported at the BMF congress at the end of November.

Important employers are currently being informed of the project and invited to participate.

Arson Suspected in Finance Building Fire

MB1307133095 Johannesburg S Afrm Radio Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arson is strongly suspected in the fire which destroyed most of the ninth floor of the Department of Finance building in Pretoria on Tuesday [11 July] night. That's according to a spokesman for the Pretoria Fire Brigade. He said fire and smoke patterns in the building were an indication that an arsonist may have been responsible for the blaze.

The spokesman added, however, that they were still waiting for the fire brigade's laboratory tests, and the police's forensic tests. He said they were also trying to establish why the alarm system was not on line at the time of the fire.

The spokesman also revealed that the Department of Fire Safety had in May 1993 released a report which warned of several fire hazards in the building.

South African Press Review for 13 Jul

MB1307121795

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Decision on Recognizing PRC, Taiwan — "There are only three possibilities in choosing a China policy for South Africa: recognise the People's Republic of China (PRC), announce that we are to continue siding with the Republic of China (RoC) or choose not to choose, which is what we are doing now," begins a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 13 July. Two important considerations are: Taiwan's "loyalty to South Africa," and the PRC's "woeful human rights record and its recalcitrant attitude on issues such as nuclear testing." THE STAR believes the logic of numbers argues for a decision "in favour of the PRC" which has 1.2 billion people as opposed to Taiwan's 21

million. Taiwan points to the scale of its investments in South Africa, SA, and the PRC "promises it will live happily with us even if we retain trade links with RoC." However, THE STAR notes the PRC "kicks up a fuss because Taiwan's President Li Teng-hui makes a private visit to America and this gives us an uneasy feeling that were SA to recognise the PRC, Beijing would indeed interfere in our trade relations with Taiwan, even if only by diplomatic protest." THE STAR advises the government to "continue to choose not to choose" until it is certain of the PRC's "commitment to live and let live."

BUSINESS DAY

Mining Rights — "It would be unfortunate if the Chamber of Mines' policy document were to be rejected holus bolus because some of its suggestions appear to entrench the status quo," declares a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 13 July. The paper believes development of South Africa's minerals industry "is better decided by market forces than by government fiat." "State intervention in industry has to be appropriate and unnoticed. Dictating the rate of progress is beyond the wit of any politician or public servant."

Right to Strike — A second editorial on the same page refers to the industrial action by members of the South African Railway and Harbors Workers' Union saying, this week's series of strikes and stayaways has "defied the generally accepted notion of industrial action only as a last resort." Although disruption has "been limited," the "inconvenience caused to commuters and costs incurred by businesses awaiting the delivery of cargo through ports and depots is unacceptable." The country is "on the verge of legislating for a sophisticated, advanced labour relations system. It will only work if the parties use it appropriately."

South African Press Review for 14 Jul

MB1407101995

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Crime in Gauteng — "Crime in Gauteng is close to being out of control," declares a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 14 July. The paper believes there is "hardly convincing evidence" to support the claim by Police Commissioner George Fivaz and Safety and Security minister Sydney Mufamadi that "'the police are getting to grips' with the problem." Yesterday saw the launch of another anti-crime campaign, Operation Jumbo, which has an important distinguishing feature: "the SA [South African] National Defense

Force [SANDF] is providing a supporting role to the SA Police Service. While we are not keen to see a blurring of the functions performed by the military and the police, the time has surely come to make greater use of the SANDF."

U.S.'s Diplomatic Relations With Vietnam Welcome — A second editorial on the same page welcomes U.S. President Clinton's "long overdue" extension of full diplomatic relations to Vietnam. "The U.S. could not have held off a moment longer. Having dropped its trade embargo over a year ago, full U.S. normalisation should assist this potential Asian tiger. And with China looming as an unpredictable power, the recognition of Vietnam will add stability to the region generally."

BUSINESS DAY

Editorial Opposes Lesotho Incorporation — A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 14 July comments on President Mandela's visit to Lesotho and the possibility of that country's incorporation into South Africa. South Africa's intervention in Lesotho's constitutional crisis last year "presaged the pre-eminent role this country plays in the affairs of the subcontinent generally. But this dominance is nowhere more evident than in Lesotho, and there would be clear advantages for it. There could come a time when economic, geographic and political factors make incorporation desirable for both countries, "for now Mandela should do no more than talk of special relationships, new forms of political interaction and regional integration — and make sure his wishes are complied with and regional stability maintained."

MAIL & GUARDIAN

President Clinton's Views on Bosnia — Johannesburg **MAIL & GUARDIAN** in English for 14-20 July in

a page 4 editorial notes that Bosnia "cries out once more for the world's attention." So serious is the situation that U.S. President Bill Clinton reportedly "summoned congressional leaders to the White House dinner table in a serious effort to persuade them that the UN peacekeepers should stay. But the problem with opposing withdrawal is that everyone claims to be against it and then goes on to discuss it." On 9 July the White House was "simultaneously floating the idea that if the UN peacekeepers cannot prove their effectiveness within the next few weeks then the withdrawal plan agreed by Nato (and backed by U.S. troops) is almost certain to begin. Washington's right to pronounce may be disputed since none of the peacekeepers is American anyhow, but Mr Clinton's real view remains impenetrable — probably to himself as well."

NEW NATION

Racial Boundaries — "We have seen in recent weeks how the National Party has tried to justify its choice of boundaries in the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan region by offering every reason except that it favours its racial profile," states Johannesburg **NEW NATION** in English on 14 July in a page 10 editorial. The ANC has opposed this and the resultant deadlock now threatens the 1 November local government elections. **NEW NATION** believes the government "simply cannot be allowed" to postpone the local government elections. Whatever boundaries are chosen they must "of necessity dismantle the racial barriers set up by the Group Areas Act" and if that is disadvantageous for certain political parties, "that simply cannot be helped."

Angola**FAA Official Says Situation in Cabinda 'Calm'***MB1307141195 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 13 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] General Jose Pedro, commander of the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] troops in Cabinda Province, says the situation in the enclave is calm. Gen. Pedro says everything is going well, even though the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] armed forces have been involved in some movements.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] How would you describe the situation in the province? Is it calm or worrisome?

[Pedro] If you are talking about the military situation, we can describe it as calm. It was a very different situation only a few months ago. You are aware that Cabinda Province has specific problems.

We have detected some movements by UNITA forces, particularly in Miconge Commune. They enter from the Republic of Zaire and then return. I must point out that these maneuvers have not been offensive. The UNITA forces have been involved in reconnaissance and resupply missions, but they have not violated the Lusaka peace accord so far. [end recording]

UNITA, Cabinda Faction Officials Meet in Sanga*MB1407093495 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Gato Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 14 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the Sanga plain early this week, Colonel Alcebiadas Chindombe, commander of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] military forces in Cabinda, received General Inacio Chivila, defense minister of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Cabinda, an armed faction based in that territory. Our correspondents report the meeting discussed UNITA's stand on Cabinda as outlined by Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi in Brazzaville. Gen. Chivila reiterated his party's position on the Cabinda problem, adding that the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Cabinda is for dialogue and supports UNITA's position on the territory. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Cabinda expressed gratitude for the responsible and humane reception given its delegation by UNITA Vice President Engineer Antonio Sebastiao Dembo in Negage in June.

The Samba meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, and the two sides decided to meet at a later date.

Joint Commission Team Delivers Dos Santos Message*MB1307195895 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 13 Jul 95*

[Report by Alves Antonio; passages in italics recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leadership of the government team to the Joint Commission returned to the Angolan capital this evening. The team went to Bailundo to convey a verbal message from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Jonas Savimbi, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] leader.

Team leader Fernando Faustino Muteka and his assistant, General Higino Carneiro, went to Bailundo this morning to meet with the UNITA leader. Gen. Carneiro had this to say about the talks with Savimbi in Bailundo:

[Carneiro] *First of all, we exchanged views. In addition, we delivered a verbal message from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. We took the opportunity to convey it and to talk at length with Dr. Savimbi and other senior UNITA officials. We have returned, and we are going to report immediately to the Angolan head of state.*

The meeting in Bailundo also dealt with the recent incidents caused by UNITA in Uige Province.

[Carneiro] *All those matters were touched on. The problems were identified, and we exchanged opinions. Both sides reiterated their desire not to see these incidents repeated.*

With regard to Savimbi's possible visit to Luanda to meet UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Gen. Carneiro said:

[Carneiro] *I do not know. We did not discuss that matter.*

Millions Lost Due to Illegal Diamond Trade*MB1307141395 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 13 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Diamonds are being sold by illegal prospectors in some of the mining areas in Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul Provinces. In the last three years alone, the country has lost \$500 million because of the illegal diamond trade. The deputy minister of geology and mines says this data was provided by South Africa's De Beers, a company with great influence in the world diamond market. [passage omitted]

Lesotho

Joint S. African Committee To Discuss Border Dispute

MB1407093695 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 2000 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Africa and Lesotho are to set up a committee to discuss a long-standing border dispute. The Lesotho prime minister, Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle, says he will not allow the issue to destroy good neighborly relations. Dennis Cruywagen reports:

[Begin recording] [Cruywagen] Lesotho has for years laid claim to a part of the Free State. Mr. Mandela and Dr. Mokhehle agreed in a joint communique today that the issue should be left open for discussion. At a later press conference, Mr. Mandela said he was sympathetic to Lesotho's plight.

[Mandela] Lesotho and South Africa will decide, nevertheless, what issues in this regard they may raise.

[Mokhehle] We therefore agreed to establish a committee that will examine the problem from the angle of South Africa and Lesotho.

[Cruywagen] In the communique the two countries agreed that reconstruction and development must be focussed on the whole of southern Africa. Earlier today Mr. Mandela visited Thibella cemetery. Thirty-nine South Africans are buried here. They were killed in cross-border raids by South African Defense Force troops. Mr. Mandela thanked Lesotho for allowing the bones of fallen South Africans to rest in the cemetery. He pledged that South Africa would never again destabilize its neighbors. Later Mr. Mandela told thousands of Basothos that a new era had dawned. He urged them to unite with South Africa and face the future with confidence. Mr. Mandela also said they should fight poverty together. [end recording]

Mozambique

U.S. Envoy 'Interference' in Peace Process Noted

MB1207152495 Maputo MEDIAFAX in Portuguese
10 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Attempted Theft"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. Ambassador to Maputo Dennis Jett has just been given the "Christian A. Herter Award," senior grade, the most valuable award for U.S. diplomacy. The selecting committee wrote the following citation. [passage omitted]

We thought that with the signing of the Rome accord, the credit for peace in Mozambique rested "to a large extent" on the anonymous Mozambican citizens who were helped by Mazula's patience and Ajello's pragmatism

in the implementation of the General Peace Accord's tinnetables, as well as by an alert and militant news media that opposed warmongering language, regardless of who spoke it.

Maybe the members of the selection committee had not been informed that on the day Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] pulled out of the elections, the electorate, from Rovuma to Maputo Rivers and including a large number of people who voted for Dhlakama and Renamo, serenely continued to cast its votes in an unparalleled desire for peace. Perhaps the committee was not informed that Dennis Jett was neither the first nor the 10th official to publicly pressure the government to prevent some of its members from making any foolish mistakes; that the independent press and a good portion of the state news media fulfilled the role of reporting the peace process, while Chissano and other government officials, as well as Renamo, were privately being pressured by churches and several Western (not just American) diplomats.

To start, the United States gave [former South African President] Botha the green light to destroy Mozambique and Angola and stood behind him in case there was a lion's roar from Moscow — one only needs to establish beyond any reasonable doubt whether Reagan called Botha on the phone in early 1981. Instead of sitting at the table with us to beg forgiveness and to weigh what we owe it in terms of credits and donations, and what it owes us in terms of destroyed property and thwarted development during Pieter Botha's "total strategy," the U.S. Government, instead of such an attitude — a more courageous and farsighted one, has tried to steal from the Mozambican people the credit for building the fragile peace in which we are living.

The only news U.S. diplomacy brought us through Jett was the advice given to the Mozambican electorate to vote for Renamo. Never before had we seen such an example of interference in a country's domestic affairs. Regardless of how one views this gesture, it annuls the part of the award that says Jett contributed to "national reconciliation" in Mozambique, because, among other things, it put Renamo under fire for appearing to be a lackey for foreign interests.

During his brief stay in Mozambique, Jett contributed a great deal to turning very important Mozambican political and cultural sectors against the United States. Likewise, Jett even risked the reconciliation between Frelimo — still hurt by NATO's assistance to Portugal — and the United States, which was skillfully handled by Jon de Vos and raised by Melissa Wells to levels of promising cooperation.

In the 70's and 80's, with some changes as of 1985, when Reagan was surprised by Samora Machel's independent attitude, U.S. diplomacy on Mozambique was characterized by an alliance with those who were destroying us — Pretoria. Today, as the so-called new right is on the rise, that diplomacy still seems to be marked by a profound animosity toward those Mozambicans who Washington regards as connected with the building of socialism. Let us hope that the structural animosity and ideological hangover [preceding word in Zulu — babalazi] from the anticommunist era will not pave the way for new support for another aggression against our society.

In conclusion, to give an award to an ambassador who caused a great deal of irritation among the Frelimo electorate, calling it a contribution to national reconciliation in Mozambique, bears the mark of either a provocation or a child's tantrum. Moreover, to suggest that Jett was "to a large extent" responsible for the prevailing peace simply smacks of insult and looks like an attempt to steal credit from others.

From 1992 to 1994, the United States, with the money it provided for the UN Operation in Mozambique and food aid, made a valuable contribution to a process that was more of a collective than individual undertaking. U.S. diplomacy has just missed a golden opportunity to celebrate the anonymity of that collective effort with dignity.

Police Seize 7,000 Arms, Ammunition

MB1307132995 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mozambican and South African police have destroyed more than 1,000 arms and other war materiel in Gaza and Maputo Provinces. The weapons were discovered in six arms caches in Magude and Manhica Districts of Maputo Province, and in Massingir, Gaza Province, during a joint operation launched between 17 June and 2 July. The police seized 1,000 arms like AKM's, G-3's, and RPK's, as well as five pistols, 35 kilograms of explosives, 190 detonators, 380 grenades, and 6,000 rounds of ammunition. This information was disclosed to NOTICIAS by Police General Commander Pedro Ronda.

Meanwhile, over the past six months the Mozambican police seized more than 6,000 arms and 24,000 rounds of ammunition throughout the country. A total of 1,070 arms came from Sofala, followed by Zambezia Province with 1,047 arms. A total of 7,000 rounds of ammunition came from Inhambane Province, and another 5,000 from Sofala Province.

Official Confirms Privatization of Commercial Bank

MB1307200895 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1800 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozambique's Planning and Finance Minister Tomas Salomao confirmed today in Johannesburg that the government is completely privatizing one of the country's two publicly owned commercial banks, while the state will retain the majority shareholding in the second.

Speaking to the Mozambique News Agency, Mr. Salomao said that the state will withdraw entirely from the Commercial Bank of Mozambique, BCM. Fifty-one percent of the bank will be sold to foreign investors, 29 percent to Mozambican investors, while the remaining 20 percent is reserved for the BCM's workers and managers.

As for the People's Development Bank, BPD, the state will retain 51 percent of the capital and sell off 49 percent to private investors.

Mr. Salomao said that the greatest weakness of the financial sector lies in the fact that it still does not cover the entire country. Although the BPD has a better geographical spread across the country, it is the BCM, which handles the largest number of transactions.

The failings of the financial system will not be corrected by decree, but through competition, said the minister. The government's philosophy in the sector, according to Mr. Salomao, is to stimulate the appearance of other financial institutions and let market mechanisms operate. There are already two other private banks in Mozambique, both Portuguese-owned: the Standard Totta Bank of Mozambique and the Banco de Fomento e Exterior. Other private banks are planned.

The BCM management insists that the bank has been operating at a profit. If this is true, privatization obeys no economic logic, but it is in obedience to the dictates of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The state has maintained control of the Central Bank, the Bank of Mozambique, which is supposed to regulate the entire banking system.

Swaziland

Mbilini: Government Not To Tolerate Mass Strike

MB1207123095 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 12 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Musa Ndlangamandla]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mbabane — Prime Minister Prince Mbilini warned last night that the planned

workers' mass stay-away would be illegal and will not be tolerated.

In a statement, Prince Mbilini called on the public to go about its normal business on Monday [17 July]. The mass stay-away has been organised to press government to address the remaining issues on the 27 popular demands.

It is orchestrated by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions following a resolution taken in a workers' meeting on Sunday.

The statement reads: "Government has learnt with deep concern that the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions has called for a mass stay-away on Monday the 17th July, 1995. Concerning this call for a mass stay-away for workers, the closure of business including schools and the stoppage of the country's transport systems, I wish to state as follows: — That this mass stay-away or strike is illegal in terms of all existing legislation in the country and that Government will not tolerate it;

— That the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, any individual or organisation has neither the right nor authority to call upon or incite the workers to violate the laws of the country;

— That Government has an obligation to protect life and property and to maintain law and order;

— That the public must also bear in mind that illegal industrial action damages the economy and creates more unemployment for our people;

— That Government therefore advises that the general public should go about their normal business.

— That Government is aware of the international networking being conducted by the Swaziland Federation

of Trade Unions and that Government is monitoring the situation very closely.

Zambia

Over 80 MMD Members Resign, Join New Party

LD1407083195 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over 80 MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] cadres from Kabwata and Kanyama constituencies in Lusaka have resigned from the ruling party and joined the newly formed Zambia Democratic Congress, Zadeco. The cadres left the MMD yesterday, saying they were tired with the ruling party. And welcoming them into Zadeco, party coordinator for Southern Province (Kay Mwetika) said the MMD had failed to provide provincial representation in its government. Mr. (Mwetika) also accused the MMD government of overspending in this year's national budget.

And MMD National Chairman Elias Chipimo has denied reports that he is about to resign from the ruling party, saying he cannot leave (?when there) is a storm in the party. And former Agriculture Minister Guy Scott also denied reports of his alleged resignation from the MMD, and said the ruling party is the only one that can manage the country properly. Mr. Chipimo, who is also deputy minister for Lusaka Province, said he cannot leave the MMD since he is a founder member of the party.

Several members of parliament have left the MMD and include (?Mandevo) MP Dr. Roger Shongwe, and MP for Namwala Dr. Chuulu Kalima.

Cote d'Ivoire

Chinese Military Delegation Arrives in Abidjan

AB1307210895 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French
1900 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from the Chinese People's Liberation Army arrived in our country this afternoon. It is made up of three generals and three colonels and led by General Liu Jingsong, commander of the Lanzhou Military Area. They were met on arrival at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny International Airport at Port-Bouet by Generals Youssouffou Kone and Laurent Mbaya, representatives of Defense Minister Leon Konan Koffi. Jean-Pierre Meya interviewed Gen. Liu Jingsong on the delegation's stay in Cote d'Ivoire.

[Begin Jingsong recording in Mandarin, fading into French translation] We came here to your country with a message of friendship on behalf of the Chinese Army and people to the Ivorian Army and people. First, I would like to extend the greetings and best wishes of the Chinese Army and people to the Ivorian Army and people. China and Cote d'Ivoire are friendly countries. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, relations and cooperation between our two countries have developed rapidly because our two countries have the same determination to broaden such relations. [end recording]

Ghana

Paper Reports Finance Minister Resigns

AB1307192795 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ghana is rife with speculation about the future of the country's finance minister, Dr. Kwesi Botchwey. He has been Jerry Rawlings' finance minister since he first came to power but there have been rumors of a falling out. The government's financial policies such as the attempt to impose value-added tax have been backfiring, and it seems that Dr. Botchwey has been feeling frozen out. Now, with President Rawlings on the trip to the UK, there are reports that Dr. Botchwey wants to call it a day. From Accra, Ajoa Yeboah-Afari reports:

[Begin Yeboah-Afari recording] A front-page story in today's GHANAIAN CHRONICLE, which it has labeled exclusive, carries in bold capitals the headline: Botchwey Resigns. It is illustrated with three photos of Dr. Botchwey and one caption reads: So Long, Kwesi.

According to the paper, Dr. Kwesi Botchwey, finance minister for 13 years, handed in his resignation letter

to President Jerry Rawlings last week Friday [7 July]. However, the paper's information was that it had not been accepted. The paper circulates that Dr. Botchwey resigned because he felt marginalized and humiliated by President Rawlings.

Quoting sources close to the office of the president, the paper said the resignation letter cited frustrations Dr. Botchwey was experiencing in bringing to book the loss making Ghana National Petroleum Corporation or GNPC which is prospecting for oil for the country, and which is headed by a close friend of President Rawlings, Mr. Tsatsu Tsikata. The GNPC was cited in Dr. Botchwey's budget statement as one of the institutions contributing to the excess money supply in the country. It has to be built up by the Bank of Ghana to the tune of over 140 billion cedis. Critics have called for Mr. Tsatsu Tsikata to be made accountable for the huge expenditure at the GNPC.

However, it is believed that the president has a lot of confidence in Mr. Tsikata, and he was among the president's entourage when the president visited the United States in March during which he described Mr. Tsikata as a financial wizard. Dr. Botchwey was not in that entourage. Again, he is conspicuously absent from the entourage on the president's current visit to the UK which ends tomorrow, although it includes one of his deputies.

This afternoon, when I called at the Finance Ministry, Dr. Botchwey had not been seen there the whole morning, and people I spoke to had no idea if he had indeed resigned. [end recording]

Niger

Rights Organization Denounces Media Censorship

AB1407090595 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1900 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The national bureau of the Niger Association for the Defense of Human Rights [ANDDH] held an extraordinary meeting today to examine the communique issued by the Higher Council of Communication [CSC] on 11 July on censoring the public and private media regarding the opinions expressed by political parties, associations, and other groups on the current political crisis.

The ANDDH feels that this communique, which is irregular both in its form and content, is a serious breach of the basic freedoms of citizens and a flagrant violation of the Constitution. By depriving the citizens of any possibility of expressing themselves on an issue that obviously interests them, the CSC has inexplicably dealt a heavy blow to democratic principles. Since nothing

legally justifies the total suppression of freedom of opinion and expression, the ANDDH urgently demands that the CSC withdraw this communique, which cannot be regarded as a binding measure since it has no statutory or legislative force.

Nigeria

Abacha Lifts Ban on GUARDIAN Newspaper Group

AB1307211595 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of state, General Sani Abacha, has approved the deproscription of GUARDIAN newspapers, and directed the appropriate organs of government to take immediate steps to effect the deproscription order.

A press release issued by the chief press secretary to the head of state, Mr. David Attah, said this was announced at the end of a meeting with representatives of the GUARDIAN group, and the Newspaper Proprietors of Nigeria, NPAN [acronym as heard]. Mr. Attah said the team has earlier tendered an unreserved apology to the head of state for any offense against either the government or the person of Gen. Abacha, and promised to show greater sensitivity to the sociopolitical problems of the nation.

The head of state said he hoped that the GUARDIAN would show genuine remorse and reciprocate the government's gesture of goodwill. Gen. Abacha appealed to Nigerian journalists to show restraint and caution in their duties and that they should do nothing to undermine the security and stability of the nation. He said the media was expected to play a leading role in mobilizing public opinion on the next stage of the transition program of his administration.

NEW NIGERIAN Office Directed To Resume Production

AB1307212995 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Information and Culture Minister, Dr. Walter Ofonagoro, has directed the Lagos office of the NEW NIGERIAN newspapers to go into production by 7 August. He gave the directive during a familiarization tour of the newspapers office in Lagos today. The papers went off production two years ago.

Dr. Ofonagoro asked the staff to make judicious use of the newspapers' machines, adding that they should not allow themselves to be used as agents of destabilization. He said journalists should be prepared to articulate the views of both the government and the people, now that

the country is going into the transitional period. He also advised newspapers that have not registered to do so according to the provisions of the appropriate decree.

The managing director of the newspaper, Dr. Rashid Abubakar, thanked the minister for the interest he has shown in the establishment since assuming duty, and pledged his support in sanitizing what he called the chaotic press situation in the country.

Human Rights Group Begins Anti-Execution Campaign

AB1407095595 Paris AFP in English 2326 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, July 13 (AFP) — A human rights body in Nigeria launched a campaign Thursday [13 July] to abolish the death sentence and stop the execution of people found guilty of trying to overthrow the government.

The group denounced the "human wastage" such executions entail and noted that 117 people have been executed for coup attempts in Nigeria since 1976.

The campaign follows protests from many foreign countries and international organisations about the secret trial by military court of more than 20 soldiers and civilians charged with plotting to overthrow the current military ruler General Sani Abacha.

Last June 5, 23 soldiers and civilians were formally charged with a recent failed attempt to topple Abacha.

In a statement published in the VANGUARD newspaper, the Lagos-based Civil Rights Organisation (CLO) said 39 military officers, policemen, and a civilian were executed in 1976, 10 military officers, including the minister of the Federal Capital Territory, General Maman Vatsa, in 1986, and 68 military officers in 1990 following failed attempts to topple military regimes in those years.

"Execution of coup plotters hardly deters another attempt. Each time a Nigerian dies by the bullet over coup suspicion, something precious dies in the soul of the nation (...) Let us cut that bloody cycle today", the CLO said.

"Stop this bloody business now. Follow the decent example of South Africa that has scrapped the death sentence from her statute book", concluded the CLO statement.

A former head of state, General Olusegun Obasanjo (1976-79), and his deputy in that post, General Shehu

Musa Yar'Adua, publicly accused by the military authorities of being involved in the coup attempt, are reported by the local press to have been arraigned before the tribunal, or even sentenced.

Military authorities have maintained total silence on the fate of these generals and the number or identities of additional persons who might have been brought before the tribunal, sitting in camera.

Treason carries death sentence in Nigeria.

NCP Members Demonstrate for Fawehimi Release

*AB1407100095 Paris AFP in English
2315 GMT 13 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, July 14 (AFP) — Members of the National Conscience Party (NCP), Thursday [13 July] here staged a peaceful demonstration during which they demanded the release of the founder of the party, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, a prominent human rights activist and opposition lawyer.

The NCP, launched here last October 1 by Chief Fawehinmi, held a rally and later marched peacefully to the office of the minister of justice, where they presented their protest letter, a representative of the protesters told AFP.

The letter was received on behalf of the minister by an official in the minister's office, the official News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said here.

The protesters, numbering about 500, according to NAN, also called for the immediate and unconditional release of Chief Fawehinmi, who was arrested last July 3 in his office by security agents.

They argued that the lawyer should be charged to court if he had committed any offence.

The arrest came a day after he addressed a news conference in his office during which he said that he would defy the ban placed on holding of political rallies and meeting, announced recently in Abuja by General Sani Abacha.

Gani, last May 19 left the country in a clandestine manner after two attempts to use the Lagos international airport were aborted by security agents.

He returned to the country last June 26 after his medical treatment and declared that he would maintain his opposition to the military.

The protesters also demanded that the military government comply with court orders in favour of several detained personalities, such as Chief Moshood Abiola, widely believed to have won June 12, 1993 presidential election, and other political detainees.

Abiola is facing charges of treason for having declared himself president of the country on the basis of that election, voided by the military.

Sierra Leone

NCCP Chairman Arrested; More 'Successes' Claimed

*AB1307193395 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 13 Jul 95*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The activities of the Sierra Leone organization, the National Coordinating Committee for Peace [NCCP] seem to have upset the military government of Captain Strasser. The NCCP was ostensibly formed to find ways of getting Foday Sankoh's RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels round the table with the government, but there are those who say it has become too political, and now its chairman, a former government minister, Mban Kabu, has been arrested. From Freetown, Victor Sylver telexed this report:

According to police sources, Mr. Mban Kabu was picked up on Tuesday [11 July] evening in connection with things he said at the meeting of the peace group last week. A source told me that the government of Capt. Strasser was not too pleased with speeches made by Mr. Kabu and other members of the peace group concerning the security of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Kabu and his associates are said to have condemned the Strasser government for its decision to recruit the South African company, Executive Outcomes, to help in the fight against Foday Sankoh's rebels. They are also alleged to have called for the removal of foreign troops from Sierra Leone, the stepping down of the Strasser regime and, where necessary, the surrender of the sovereignty of the country to international organizations. [sentence as heard]

One top government official told me today that he had doubts about the impartiality of the peace group. He added: It is difficult not to call it a political front. According to Mr. Kabu's associates, all efforts to secure his release have so far failed.

Meanwhile, the government is claiming more successes in the battle against Sankoh's rebels in Bo District. According to national radio, in operations which began on Monday, government forces recaptured Tikonko, Bumpe, and other areas from which rebels were launching attacks against the township of Bo and other settlements in the south.

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